

Message Text

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51

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AEC-11 AF-10 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-11

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NASA-04 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM - UK

SUBJECT: CCD: UK STATEMENT MADE ON "MINI-NUKES"

FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM STATEMENT BY AMB HAINWORTH
(UK) IN AUG 28 PLENARY SESSION OF CCD COVERS REPLIES
TO SWEDISH DEL'S QUESTIONS ON "MINI-NUKES" POSED AUG 9.

BEGIN TEST:

I COME NOW TO THAT PART OF
MRS. MYRDAL'S SPEECH IN WHICH SHE POSED FIVE PRECISE
QUESTIONS. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF
THE COMMITTEE IF I RECALL THAT THE FIRST THREE
OF THESE QUESTIONS WERE WORDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. "IS IT TRUE THAT A NEW GENERATION OF TACTICAL
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NUCLEAR PERCISION WEAPONS WITH SUBKILOTON YIELDS ARE

BEING DEVELOPED AND TESTED?"

2. "ARE PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH SYSTEMS
A REASON FOR FURTHER TESTING AND THUS AN OBSTACLE TO
THE CONCLUSION OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN?"

3. "IS IT TRUE THAT PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE
FOR THE EARLY DEPLOYMENT OF SUCH SYSTEMS? (CCD/PV.620,
PP 14-15)
CURRENT PRESS AND OTHER PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE QUESTION
OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALLER YIELD TACTICAL NUCLEAR
WEAPONS, WAS REKINDLED, I BELIEVE, BY AN ARTICLE IN THE
LONDON "TIMES" ON 7 MAY THIS YEAR. THIS ARTICLE WAS
SUBSEQUENTLY REFERRED TO IN OTHER NEWSPAPERS AND GAVE
RISE TO A NUMBER OF ARTICLES COMMENTING ON IT. THERE IS,
HOWEVER, NOTHING NEW IN THE IDEA OF "MINI-NUKES", AS
THEY HAVE BECOME KNOWN; THE FEASIBILITY OF RELATIVELY
SMALL YIELD TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED
FOR SOME TIME, AND IT WOULD DOUBTLESS BE POSSIBLE TO LINK
THESE WITH THE PRECISION GUIDANCE TECHNIQUES WHICH HAVE
ALREADY BEEN APPLIED TO CONVENTIONAL WEAPON SYSTEMS.

THE PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF A NEW GENERATION
OF TACTICAL WEAPONS COULD OF COURSE RAISE VERY IMPORTANT
POLITICAL ISSUES, SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN MENTIONED BY
MRS. MYRDAL. FOR THEIR PART, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN CONSCIOUS, AND REMAIN VERY CONSCIOUS, OF THE
IMPORTANCE IN POLITICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY TERMS OF THE
DISTINCTION BETWEEN NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND
OF RECOGNIZING THIS IN ANY PLANS RELATING TO THEIR USE.

MRS. MYRDAL'S QUESTIONS WERE ADDRESSED TO THE
REPRESENTATIVES IN THIS COMMITTEE OF THE THREE NUCLEAR
POWERS. CLEARLY I CAN SPEAK ONLY FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.
BRITISH MINISTERS HAVE ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR IN PARLIAMENT
THAT NO PROPOSALS FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF SUCH WEAPONS WITHIN
EUROPE HAVE SO FAR BEEN MADE BY THE UNITED STATES TO THEIR
NATO ALLIES. AS FAR AS THE UNITED KINGDOM IS CONCERNED,
NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO DEVELOP, TEST, OR DEPLOY A
NEW GENERATION OF SMALL YIELD TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
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FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THIS, I BELIEVE, ANSWERS THE FIRST
THREE OF MRS. MYRDAL'S QUESTIONS.

HOWEVER, WITH REGARD TO QUESTION TWO ABOUT THE
DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH SYSTEMS BECOMING AN OBSTACLE TO THE
CONCLUSION OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, I SHOULD MYSELF
LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION OF THE SWEDISH DELEGATION. IT MUST
BE OBVIOUS FROM ALL THAT THE SWEDISH AND OTHER SEISMOLOGICAL

EXPERTS HAVE SAID ON THIS SUBJECT, PARTICULARLY AT OUR INFORMAL MEETINGS IN JULY, THAT THE TESTING OF SUCH SMALL YIELD DEVICES UNDERGROUND COULD NOT BE DETECTED OR IDENTIFIED SEISMOLOGICALLY FROM OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY OF EVEN A MEDIUM-SIZED STATE. YET THE SWEDISH STATEMENT ON 9 AUGUST SUGGESTED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH MINIATURISED NUCLEAR WEAPONS MIGHT BE A MATTER OF SUCH SERIOUSNESS AND CONCERN THAT A STATE MIGHT FEEL THAT ITS SUPREME INTERESTS HAD BEEN JEOPARDISED. MY QUESTION IS: HOW WOULD THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, OR INDEED ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT, ESTABLISH THE FACT THAT SUCH WEAPONS HAD BEEN DEVELOPED, TESTED, AND DEPLOYED? SURELY THIS IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF ISSUE WHICH SHOWS JUST HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO ENSURE THAT A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY AND EFFECTIVELY VERIFIED.

MRS. MYRDAL'S FOURTH QUESTION, WHICH CONCERNED THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR, WAS NOT, OF COURSE, ADDRESSED TO THE UK DELEGATION.

THE FIFTH OF MRS. MYRDAL'S QUESTIONS READ AS FOLLOWS:
"DOES SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 255 (1968) IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN REFER ALSO TO NUCLEAR AGGRESSION IN WHICH NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE USED EXCEPT SUCH MINI NUKES?" (CCD/PV.620 P. 15)
ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TO MY DELEGATION I CONSIDER IT RIGHT AND PROPER THT I SHOULD REPLY TO IT TODAY. IN THE VIEW OF THE BRITISH GIVERNMENT, SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 255 (WHICH WAS, YOU WILL RECALL, TABLED JOINTLY BY THE DELEGATIONS OF THE UK, THE USA, AND THE USSR ON 12 JUNE 1968) REFERS TO NUCLEAR AGGRESSION OF ANY TYPE WHATSOEVER; AND THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE UK REPRESENTATIVE
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AT THE 1430TH MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS TO BE READ IN THAT SENSE.

END TEXT.BASSIN

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